

Claims

[c1] What is claimed is:

1. A method for cooperatively controlling a touchpad and a keyboard of a computing device, the method comprising:

detecting for an event of at least a key of the keyboard, key events including a make event executed when the key is depressed and a break event executed when the key is released;

deactivating the touchpad upon detection of the make event;

deactivating the touchpad upon detection of the break event when the touchpad is not receiving input; and reactivating the touchpad immediately after a deactivation interval has elapsed;

wherein the touchpad is normally activated.

[c2] 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

detecting for a repeat event that is executed while a key is depressed for longer than a repeat threshold time; and reactivating the touchpad upon detection of the repeat event.

[c3] 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising:

activating a timer upon detection of the make event or the break event; and
deactivating the timer upon detection of the repeat event;
wherein the timer measures the deactivation interval and triggers reactivation of the touchpad.

- [c4] 4. The method of claim 2 wherein the deactivation interval is equal to the repeat threshold time.
- [c5] 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising setting the length of the deactivation interval according to the make or break event being detected.
- [c6] 6. A computing device comprising:
 - a housing;
 - a processor including a timer, and a memory fixed in the housing;
 - a keyboard connected to the processor;
 - a touchpad connected to the processor; and
 - a program stored in the memory and executable by the processor for performing the following controls:
 - deactivating the touchpad for a deactivation interval as measured by a timer, the deactivation interval beginning when a key of the keyboard is depressed or when a key is released while the touchpad is not receiving input; and
 - activating the touchpad when the key depressed is held

depressed for longer than a repeat threshold time, and when the deactivation interval expires.

- [c7] 7. The computing device of claim 6 wherein the memory is a random-access memory (RAM).
- [c8] 8. The computing device of claim 6 wherein the memory is a read-only memory (ROM).
- [c9] 9. The computing device of claim 6 further comprising: a display device connected to the processor for outputting information relating to input received by the keyboard and touchpad.
- [c10] 10. The computing device of claim 6 wherein the touchpad is fixed in the housing and electrically connected to the processor.
- [c11] 11. The computing device of claim 6 wherein the touchpad is installed in a second housing and electrically connected or wirelessly connected to the processor.